

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SS-15 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 IGA-02 XMB-02 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 COME-00 /082 W
-----121627Z 061652 /43

P R 121455Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3962
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3001

ABIDJAN FOR COM TIENKEN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IBRD
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS AND IDA LOANS FOR ETHIOPIA

REF: STATE 106156

1. DURING MAY 12 MEETING WITH MOFA AMERICAN DIVISION
CHIEF BEHANE DERESSE, I INFORMED HIM OF US ABSTENTION
ACTION ON TWO IDA LOANS AND READ OUT LOUD STATEMENT IN
EXPLANATION OF VOTE . (VOA BROADCAST SAME DAY HAD AN-
NOUNCED US ACTION AND ETHIOPIAN PRESS LIKEWISE HAD RE-
PORTED DETAILS ON BOTH LOANS, WITHOUT MAKING MENTION OF
US ABSTENTION.)

2. BERHANE RESPONDED SHARPLY AND SARCASTICALLY TO EFFECT
THAT GREAT POWER US SEEMED MORE AND MORE TO REACT IN THIS
FASHION AGAINST SMALL COUNTRIES WHO ATTEMPTED TO TAKE
BROAD MEASURES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
STATUS OF DEPRIVED ELEMENTS OF POPULATION. HE
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CHARACTERIZED US POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS
HYPOCRITICAL AND POLITICALLY INSPIRED, IN THAT US
FAILED TO APPLY SAME CRITERIA UNIFORMLY AND ONLY TOOK
DISCRIMINATORY ACTIONS AGAINST COUNTRIES, SUCH AS
ETHIOPIAN AND CHILE UNDER ALLENDE. MEANWHILE, IN
COUNTRIES SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA, WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS
BEING VIOLATED AGREGIOUSLY EVERY DAY, US GOVT DID

LITTLE TO DISCOURAGE US BUSINESSMEN FROM MAINTAINING CLOSEST CONTACTS. MOREOVER, BERHANE POINTED TO EXTENSIVE USAID ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA ITSELF DURING YEARS OF FEUDALISTIC HAILE SELASSIE RULE, AT WHICH TIME QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DID NOT FIGURE INTO US CONSIDERATION.

3. I POINTED OUT THAT US IBRD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DID NOT TAKE ISSUE WITH PURPOSES OF IDA LOANS AND HAD NOT OBSTRUCTED THEIR APPROVAL BY IBRD, BUT HAD FELT CONSTRAINED TO SPEAK OUT WITH CONCERN OVER RECENT EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA WHICH HAD AROUSED STRONGLY NEGATIVE OPINIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. BERHANE SAID HE WOULD BRING MATTER TO ATTENTION OF HIGHER AUTHORITIES, AFTER WHICH HE WOULD ADVISE ME OF ANY OFFICIAL REACTION.

4. COMMENT: I ANTICIPATE STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION TO OUR ABSTENTION AND PUBLIC STATEMENT, POSSIBLY NOT EXCLUDING SWEEPING EPMG DECISIONS REGARDING OUR AID OPERATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY. BY SEPTTEL, EMBASSY WILL ADDRESS IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE AID POLICY.
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